

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 2-5, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burzin et al. (U.S. 4,101,524) in view of Chiba et al. (U.S. 4,380,622), or Timmermann et al. (U.S. 5,644,020) in view of Chiba et al. (U.S. 4,380,622) and Otani et al. (U.S. 4,515,981). Although the subject matter of Claim 8 was allowable in the previous action, the Action asserts that defining a branching agent in an amount of 0-10% by weight does not require such an agent to be present.

Claim Amendments and New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 8 and added new claims 13-15. The Action implies that if the claimed invention required the branching agent, then the Office would be satisfied that claims distinguish the cited art.

Applicant's amended claim 8 defines "no more than 10% by weight" of a branching agent requiring that the raw materials include a branching agent. Moreover, Applicant has added a new independent claim 13 to define "more than 0%~10% by weight" of a branching agent. Applicant has also added new claims 14-15 defining "0.1%~10% by weight" of a branching agent. Support for these claim features can be found in the examples and the disclosed weight percent range of the branching agent as filed. See, e.g., *In re Wertheim et al.*, 541 F.2d 257, 191 U.S.P.Q. 90 (CCPA 1976), where a disclosed range of 60°-200°C provided support for a later claimed range of 80°-200°C.

Applicant has also amended claim 8 to correct informalities.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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